

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

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1. (Currently Amended) In combination:
a ~~major-water-handling~~ household cleaning appliance having at least one internal component, the at least one internal component having at least one male fitting thereon; and
a tube having two ends, at least one of the ends having a tubular quick connect fitting thereon, the interior of the quick connect fitting retainingly and releasingly engaging the at least one male fitting exterior.
2. (Currently Amended) The combination according to claim 1, wherein the ~~major-house-~~hold cleaning appliance has a plurality of internal components, the internal components each having at least one male fitting thereon, the tube having a quick connect fitting at both ends, one quick connect fitting being adapted to releasingly engage a male fitting on one internal component, the other quick connect fitting being adapted to releasingly engage a male fitting on another internal component.
3. (Currently Amended) The combination according to claim 1, wherein the tube is a drain tube adapted to drain water from within the ~~major-household~~ cleaning appliance.
4. (Original) The combination according to claim 1, wherein the tube is a corrugated tube.
5. (Currently Amended) A quick connect assembly for use in household cleaning appliances, the quick connect assembly comprising:
a quick connect fitting having a tubular quick connect retainer sleeve; and a tubular quick connect retainer fitting within and being integrated into the tubular sleeve,
the quick connect fitting being adapted to be removably attached to a [[fit-ting]]fitting in the household cleaning appliance.

6. (Previously Presented) The quick connect assembly recited in claim 5, wherein the quick connect fitting is fabricated from plastic.

7. (Currently Amended) A quick connect assembly for use in household cleaning appliances, the household cleaning appliance having at least one fitting therein, the quick connect assembly comprising:

a length of corrugated tubing;

a tubular quick connect retainer sleeve integral to the corrugated tubing; and,

a tubular quick connect retainer fitting within and being integrated into the sleeve.

8. (Original) The quick connect assembly recited in claim 7, wherein the quick connect retainer sleeve is monolithic with the corrugated tubing.

9. (Original) The quick connect assembly recited in claim 8, wherein the quick connect assembly is adapted to be removably attached to the fitting.

10. (Original) The quick connect assembly recited in claim 9, wherein the quick connect assembly is fabricated from plastic.

11. (Currently Amended) A quick connect tubing assembly for use in ~~major water-handling~~ household cleaning appliance applications comprising:

a length of corrugated tubing having two ends;

a tubular quick connect retainer sleeve monolithically formed with the corrugated tubing and extending from one of the corrugated tubing ends to form a free end of the corrugated tubing; and

a tubular quick connect retainer fitting within and being integral with the tubular sleeve, the quick connect retainer comprising: an outwardly extending flange extending from a first end thereof; an inwardly extending flange extending from a second end thereof; and an intermediate wall portion connecting the outwardly extending flange and the inwardly extending

flange, the outwardly extending flange engaging a free end of tubular quick connect retainer sleeve.

12. (Currently Amended) A corrugated tubing assembly comprising:
a length of flexible corrugated tubing;
a tubular quick connect sleeve monolithic with one end of the corrugated tubing; and
a tubular quick connect retainer fitting within and being attached to the interior of the quick connect sleeve, the quick connect retainer having a plurality of inwardly extending resilient fingers, the resilient fingers being adapted to retainingly and releasably engage a male fitting.

13. (Original) The corrugated tubing assembly according to claim 12, further comprising:
an elastomeric sealing ring adapted to sealingly engage the male fitting.

14. (Original) The corrugated tubing assembly according to claim 13, wherein the quick connect sleeve has a stepped circular interior comprising: a quick connect retainer portion having a first inner diameter; a seal portion having a second diameter, the second diameter being smaller than the first diameter; and a seal retaining portion having a third diameter, the third diameter being smaller than the second diameter, the seal portion being between the quick connect retainer portion and the seal retaining portion, the seal retaining portion being monolithic with the length of corrugated tubing, the quick connect retainer engaging the quick connect retainer portion of the stepped circular interior.

15. (Original) The corrugated tubing assembly according to claim 14, wherein the elastomeric sealing ring fits radially within the inside diameter of the seal portion of the stepped circular interior and fits axially against a shoulder formed between the seal portion of the stepped circular interior and the seal retaining portion of the stepped circular interior.

16. (Original) The corrugated tubing assembly according to claim 14, wherein the quick connect retainer has an annular shape with an outwardly extending flange at one end

thereof and an inwardly extending flange at the other end thereof, the outwardly extending flange engaging a free end of the quick connect sleeve, the inwardly extending flange engaging a shoulder formed between the quick connect retainer portion of the stepped circular interior and the seal portion of the stepped circular interior.

17. (Original) The corrugated tubing assembly according to claim 16, wherein the quick connect retainer inwardly extending flange is formed of a plurality of discontinuous flange sections.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of removably attaching tubing to water-handling household cleaning appliances, the household cleaning appliance having at least one male fitting, said method comprising the steps of;

providing a quick connect assembly integral with a length of tubing, said quick connect assembly comprising: a tubular quick connect retainer sleeve; and a tubular quick connect retainer fitting within and being integral with the tubular sleeve; and
retainingly and removably attaching said quick connect assembly to said fitting.

19. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein the quick connect retainer includes a plurality of radially spaced apart flexible fingers and the step of retaining and removably attaching said quick connect assembly includes flexing the plurality of flexible fingers with an radially outwardly extending flange on said at least one fitting.

20. (Original) A tubing assembly comprising:
a length of tubing, at least a portion of the tubing, including an end of the tubing, being formed from a thermoplastic elastomer;
a quick connect sleeve monolithic with the end of the length of the tubing formed of thermoplastic elastomer; and
a quick connect retainer integrated into the quick connect retainer sleeve.

21. (Original) The tubing assembly according to claim 20, wherein the quick connect retainer comprises: an outwardly extending flange; an inwardly extending flange; and an inter-

mediate wall portion connecting the outwardly extending flange with the inwardly extending flange.

22. (Original) The tubing assembly according to claim 20, wherein the quick connect retainer includes a plurality of inwardly extending resilient fingers, the resilient fingers being adapted to retainingly and releasingly engage a male fitting.

23. (Currently Amended) In combination:

a ~~major-water-handling~~ household cleaning appliance having at least one internal component, the at least one internal component having at least one male fitting thereon; and

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(amended)
a tube having at least a portion formed of thermoplastic elastomer, at least one end of the tube being formed of the thermoplastic elastomer, the at least one end of the tube being formed of the thermoplastic elastomer having a quick connect fitting thereon, the quick connect fitting interior retainingly and releasingly engaging the at least one male fitting exterior, the tubing adjacent the quick connect retainer sleeve having a smaller diameter than the quick connect retainer sleeve, the tubing smaller diameter portion sealingly engaging the at least one male fitting.

24. (New) The combination according to claim 4, wherein the tubular quick connect fitting is monolithic with the tube.